

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 7NEW YORK TIMES
15 MAY 1982

WASHINGTON TALK

Briefing

Clash With C.I.A.

If Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal has his way, the House may become embroiled in a constitutional clash with the Central Intelligence Agency. The New York Democrat has protested to Speaker of the House Thomas P.



Drawings by Charles Walker

O'Neill Jr. that the agency has taken "improper" actions with respect to records of a subcommittee hearing.

According to Mr. Rosenthal, a Queens Democrat, C.I.A. agents took control of a House hearing room last week and denied House staff members "physical control and custody" of tapes and notes of the ensuing closed proceedings on the ground of security, contrary to established procedures.

Mr. Rosenthal appealed to the Speaker after the Director of Central Intelligence, William J. Casey, accused the subcommittee staff of spreading "misinformation" about the episode and making a "strident attack" on the C.I.A.

The hearing dealt with 17 C.I.A. documents on Arab investments in the United States that the subcommittee wants to make public. The Congressman cited as evidence of "absolute good faith" the fact that the panel has held the documents for more than two years without any security violations. The next move is up to Mr. O'Neill.

Francis X. Clines
Warren Weaver Jr.